INDUSTRY PROFILES

Health Care and Social Assistance Industry

June 2012

Alberta

Overview:

The Health Care and Social Assistance industry[1] in Alberta includes establishments and services such as:

- hospitals, nursing and residential care facilities and out-patient care centres;
- offices of health practitioners (i.e. dentists, doctors, optometrists and chiropractors);
- medical and diagnostic laboratories;
- home health care services;
- ambulance services;
- social assistance services (i.e. for children, youth, the elderly, families);
- community food, housing, emergency and relief services;
- vocational rehabilitation services; and
- daycare services.

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[1] North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) major group 62

Section A: Business Environment

1. 2011 Employment and Unemployment Numbers and Rates:

	Alberta	Health Care and Social Assistance Industry
Number of employed	2,094,100	224,900
Percent employed in the industry		10.7%
Number of unemployed	121,000	5,200
Unemployment rate	5.5%	2.3%

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, CANSIM Table 282-0008, 2012

For more information on employment numbers or for a historical comparison, please go to the Labour Force Statistics[2] or Statistics Canada[3] websites.

2. Industry's Growth:

- This industry accounted for 10.7% of total employment in Alberta in 2011.
- Employment in the Health Care and Social Assistance industry is expected to grow at an average rate of 2.5% from 2011 to 2015.
- This industry is expected to account for 11.0% of total employment in Alberta in 2015.

For more information, see the *Alberta Modified Canadian Occupational Projection System (COPS) Outlook 2011 – 2015, Industry Employment Outlook*[4] online and the Alberta Learning Information Service (ALIS)[5] website for descriptions of industries.

[2] See http://www.employment.alberta.ca/BI/67.html
[3] See http://www.statcan.gc.ca
[4] See http://www.employment.alberta.ca/documents/cops-outlook-2011-2015.pdf
[5] See http://www.alis.alberta.ca

3. Facts, Trends and Outlook:

According to Statistics Canada's National Economic Accounts, the Health Care and Social Assistance industry accounted for 5.2% of Alberta's Gross Domestic Product in 2011, up from 4.3% in 2001. This industry had the second largest employment in 2011, behind Retail Trade, and its share of Alberta's total employment increased from 9.2% in 2001 to 10.7% in 2011.

Employment in 2011 was 2.6% higher than its level in 2010. Over the last ten years, employment has increased from 149,200 people in 2001 to 224,900 people in 2011. There were 197,600 employees in the industry in 2011 of whom 88.5% were permanent and 11.5% were temporary. Self-employed people accounted for 12.1% of total employment in the industry in 2011.

Characteristic	Alberta	Health Care and Social Assistance
Median Retirement Age (years)	64.7	63.8
Average Number of Hours Worked per Week	37.6	34.1
Multiple Jobholders (% of total employment)	6.0%	8.6%
Average Job Tenure (months)	87.9	102.2
Employees Under Union Coverage (%)	23.2%	51.9%
Employees Working Overtime per Week (%)	25.8%	18.7%

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, CANSIM Tables 282-0022, 282-0031, 282-0042, 282-0078 and 282-0084, 2012, and custom tabulation (median retirement age)

According to *Alberta Occupational Demand Outlook 2011-2015*, employment growth in the Managers in health, education, social and community services occupations is expected to exceed 2.7%, the average for all occupations. For other occupations in this industry, growth is expected to be below this average.

4. Size of Businesses in Alberta and the Industry:

Establishment Size	Businesses in Alberta		Establishments in Health Care and Social Assistance	
	Number of Employees	%	Number of Employees	%
Less than 20 employees	637,400	36.6%	66,300	33.6%
20 to 99 employees	594,400	34.1%	57,200	28.9%
100 to 500 employees	326,300	18.7%	36,000	18.2%
Over 500 employees	184,200	10.6%	38,200	19.3%

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, CANSIM Table 282-0076, 2012

Note: Statistics Canada's survey methodology for determining establishment size differs from the one it uses in the Labour Force Survey to determine total employment. As a result, the total number of employees by establishment size will not be the same as total employment in the industry, except by coincidence.

Section B: Human Resources Profile

1. Occupational Information:

Some examples of occupations in the Health Care and Social Assistance industry include:

- chiropractor;
- dental hygienist;
- emergency medical technician;
- registered nurse; and
- child and youth care worker.

For a complete listing of all occupations related to this industry as well as detailed information on education and skill requirements, visit the Alberta Occupational Profiles[6] website.

2. Demographics: Gender and Age:

According to the Labour Force Survey, the gender breakdown in the Health Care and Social Assistance industry in 2011 is as follows:

- women employed: 189,800 people, or 84.4%
- men employed: 35,100 people, or 15.6%

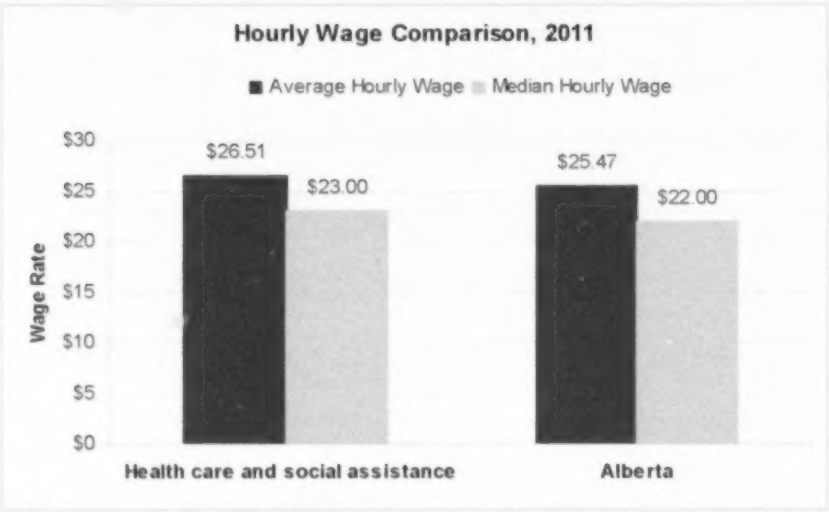
In Alberta, women accounted for 44.9% and men made up 55.1% of total employment.

Age Characteristics	Employment in Alberta		Employment in Health Care and Social Assistance	
	Number	%	Number	%
15-24 years	318,900	15.2%	19,900	8.8%
25-54 years	1,423,000	68.0%	162,500	72.3%
55 years and over	352,300	16.8%	42,600	18.9%

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, CANSIM Table 282-0008, 2012

[6] See http://www.alis.alberta.ca/occinfo

3. Wages:



Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, CANSIM Table 282-0072, 2012
Note: The average hourly wage is obtained by dividing the sum of the wages of all the employees by the total number of employees. The median hourly wage is that wage below which half the employees earn and above which half the employees earn.

Wage and Salary Information for Selected Occupations

Occupation	Average Hourly Wage			Average Annual Salary
	Starting Average	Overall Average	Top Average	
Cardiology technologist	$ 26.85	$ 32.10	$ 37.90	$ 64,512
Registered nurse	$ 33.52	$ 40.20	$ 44.35	$ 75,366
Dentist	$ 80.55	$ 92.58	$ 171.78	$ 160,581
Social worker	$ 25.89	$ 37.27	$ 51.55	$ 62,617

Data Source: 2011 Alberta Wage and Salary Survey

For more information on the 2011 Alberta Wage and Salary Survey, refer to the WAGEinfo[7] webpage. For descriptions, duties, required skills and education for specific occupations in the Health Care and Social Assistance industry, visit the ALIS[8] website.

[7] See http://www.alis.alberta.ca/wageinfo
[8] See http://www.alis.alberta.ca

Section C: Additional Information

Links to Government and Selected Associations in Industry:

- Alberta Health
  (http://www.health.alberta.ca)
- Alberta Health Services
  (http://www.albertahealthservices.ca)
- Alberta Association of Optometrists
  (http://www.optometrists.ab.ca)
- Alberta Association of Registered Nurses
  (http://www.nurses.ab.ca)
- Alberta Continuing Care Association
  (http://www.ab-cca.ca)
- Alberta Medical Association
  (http://www.albertadoctors.org)
- Alberta Dental Association and College
  (http://www.abda.ab.ca)
- Alberta Union of Provincial Employees
  (http://www.aupe.org/my-union/health-care)
- Canadian Union of Public Employees
  (http://www.cupe.ca)
- Health Sciences Association of Alberta
  (http://www.hsaa.ca)
- United Nurses of Alberta
  (http://www.una.ab.ca)